

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of West Virginia

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

May 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **West Virginia**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 1,801,873 (July 2002 estimate); 1,808,344 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 94.6% white; 3.1% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.5% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 0.8% two or more races; 0.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

### **Politics**

- Governor: Bob Wise<sup>2</sup>
- Attorney General: Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.<sup>3</sup>
- Secretary of State: Joe Manchin III<sup>4</sup>
- U.S. Senate Members: Robert Byrd (D); John Rockefeller (D)<sup>5</sup>
- U.S. House of Representatives (Districts): Allan B. Mollohan (1); Shelly Capito (2); Nick J. Rahall II (3)<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>7</sup>  
The Appalachia HIDTA was designated in 1998 and is responsible for counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, and eleven counties in West Virginia. This HIDTA was designated in part because of the enormous quantity of marijuana produced, consumed, and trafficked in and through the area.
- CREATE for a Drug-Free West Virginia<sup>8</sup>  
The mission of this program is to promote the health and well being of the citizens of West Virginia. In addition, this program aims at eliminating the unhealthy or illicit use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs among youth and adults.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in West Virginia:<sup>9</sup>
  - FY 2002: none
  - FY 2001: \$100,000 to the Community Connections, Inc., Bluefield
  - FY 2000: none
  - FY 1999: \$100,000 to Jefferson County Coalition on Substance Abuse, Charleston
  - FY 1998: \$100,000 to Telamon Corporation, Berkeley County
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for West Virginia:<sup>10</sup>
  - Formula Funding: \$12,017,004
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant: \$8,634,168
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: \$2,697,936
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness: \$300,000

- Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant: \$384,900
- Discretionary Funding: \$3,498,152
  - Mental Health: \$2,999,526
  - Substance Prevention: \$0
  - Substance Abuse Treatment: \$498,626
- Total Mental Health Funds: \$6,382,362
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$9,132,794
- Total West Virginia Funds: \$15,515,156
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>  
Wheeling is the only city in West Virginia that has been officially designated as a Weed and Seed site.
- FY 2003 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to West Virginia: \$3,837,951<sup>12</sup>
- West Virginia did not receive funding for the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.<sup>13</sup>
- FY 1996-2003 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to West Virginia:<sup>14</sup>
  - FY 1996: \$146,204
  - FY 1997: \$165,534
  - FY 1998: \$362,847
  - FY 1999: \$363,466
  - FY 2000: \$369,933
  - FY 2001: \$370,430
  - FY 2002: \$421,736
  - FY 2003: \$399,850<sup>15</sup>
- FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant awards in West Virginia:<sup>16</sup>
  - \$222,222 to the Parkersburg Police Department
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipients in West Virginia:<sup>17</sup>
  - \$125,000 to Vandalia Terrace Housing Corporation, Charleston
  - \$187,790 to Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless, Inc., Huntington

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 200 arrests for drug violations in West Virginia.<sup>18</sup>

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, West Virginia, 1997-2001

Year	Number of Arrests
1997	85
1998	135
1999	170
2000	230
2001	200

- Between 2000 and 2001, there were a total of 1,907 adult drug offense charges in West Virginia.<sup>19</sup>

#### Adult Drug Offenses Charged, West Virginia, 2000-2001

Drug Type Involved	Number of Adult Drug Offenses Charged
Marijuana	555
Cocaine	184
Crack	786
Heroin	67
Stimulants	71
Depressants	68
Hallucinogens	27
Other opiates	104
Other	45
Total	1,907

- Between 2000 and 2001, West Virginia Drug and Violent Crime Control Task Forces made 1,720 drug-related arrests. Crack cocaine represented 39.7% of all drug arrests, followed by marijuana (30%), and cocaine (10.7%).<sup>20</sup>
- During 1999, there were 1,458 arrests for aggravated assault in West Virginia.<sup>21</sup> This number decreased to 1,145 during 2000.<sup>22</sup> The number of arrests for aggravated assault in West Virginia further decreased during 2001 to 897.<sup>23</sup>

#### Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, West Virginia, 1999-2001

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	41	19	16
Forcible rape	47	44	26
Robbery	99	96	57
Aggravated assault	1,458	1,145	897
Burglary	536	547	371
Larceny-theft	2,834	2,266	1,307
Motor vehicle theft	252	217	175
Arson	40	47	34
Driving under the influence	5,836	4,898	4,116
Liquor laws	2,016	1,430	807
Drunkenness	3,493	2,104	925

#### Drugs

- Cocaine<sup>24</sup>  
Powder and crack cocaine are widely available in most West Virginia cities. Abuse of crack cocaine is usually restricted to low and low-middle income individuals, but crosses all ethnic lines. Some violence is associated with crack distribution in the State. Cocaine availability is limited to large-retail or small-wholesale quantities.

Locations to obtain cocaine vary more than those of other drugs consumed in West Virginia and are largely based on the trafficker's location within the State.

- Heroin<sup>25</sup>  
Heroin demand and availability are limited throughout West Virginia. Small groups of long-term heroin addicts exist and rely on each other to obtain heroin from secondary sources in Philadelphia and Baltimore.
- Marijuana<sup>26</sup>  
Imported and locally produced marijuana pose serious drug threats in West Virginia. The State consistently ranks in the top ten states for marijuana eradication and commonly serves as a source area for domestic marijuana.
- Club Drugs<sup>27</sup>  
Demand for MDMA in West Virginia has increased, but abuse remains concentrated near Morgantown, which is the location of West Virginia University. The demand for MDMA in college towns is large enough to bring thousands of pills into the State every month. The State's remote terrain also makes it suitable to host "rave" parties, although attendance at large-scale, publicized raves has been disappointing to promoters.
- Diverted Pharmaceuticals<sup>28</sup>  
West Virginia, along with neighboring and nearby states Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, were among the first areas in the United States to experience widely publicized problems with OxyContin diversion and abuse. Pharmaceutical drug abuse in general, however, has always been an enormous concern in West Virginia, particularly in the southern region.
- According to the 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 48.33% of West Virginia citizens felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>29</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, West Virginia, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	10.60	14.89	2.38	4.69
Past month use of marijuana	7.32	10.67	1.90	3.49
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.66	7.00	1.48	2.55
Past year cocaine use	1.62	3.81	0.86	1.30
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	40.52	29.80	52.18	48.33

- According to 2000 data from National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.15% of West Virginia citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>30</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, West Virginia, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.44	2.96	0.71	1.15
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.42	4.83	1.05	1.83
Alcohol dependence	2.46	4.40	1.81	2.20
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	7.80	14.05	3.45	5.16

## Juveniles

- From 2000 to 2001, there were 60 juvenile drug offenses charged in West Virginia.<sup>31</sup>

### Juvenile Drug Offenses Charged, West Virginia, 2000-2001

Offense Type	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Other	Total
Cultivation/Manufacture	2	0	0	0	2
Distribution/Sale	2	0	8	0	10
Possession	32	2	8	3	45
Other	0	0	2	1	3
Total	36	2	18	4	60

- There were 222 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in West Virginia during 1999.<sup>32</sup> This number decreased to 171 during 2000.<sup>33</sup> During 2001, there were 100 juvenile arrests for drug abuse violations in West Virginia.<sup>34</sup>

### Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, West Virginia, 1999-2001

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	-	2	0
Forcible rape	2	3	1
Robbery	17	11	4
Aggravated assault	77	63	29
Burglary	138	171	73
Larceny-theft	762	562	316
Motor vehicle theft	96	70	35
Arson	11	15	5
Drug abuse violations	222	171	100
Driving under the influence	99	50	38
Liquor laws	332	240	127
Drunkenness	45	21	15

- During 2001, 45.2% of high school students in West Virginia reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.<sup>35</sup>

### Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, West Virginia, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	44.9	45.5	45.2
Current marijuana use	32.2	25.5	28.7
Lifetime cocaine use	14.2	10.5	12.4
Current cocaine use	8.1	3.9	5.8
Lifetime inhalant use	17.8	20.0	19.1
Current inhalant use	6.1	6.9	6.7
Lifetime heroin use	6.6	3.9	5.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	12.6	10.8	11.8
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	4.5	3.0	3.7
Tried marijuana before aged 13 years	14.6	7.8	11.1

## Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001 there were 4,003 law enforcement employees in West Virginia (3,092 officers and 911 civilians).<sup>36</sup>
- Drug Identification Section of West Virginia State Police<sup>37</sup>  
The Drug Identification Section analyzes and identifies any suspected controlled substances submitted to the Crime Lab. In 1999, there were 4,488 drug cases submitted to the lab. There were 4,433 cases submitted in 1998. Marijuana is the most common drug submitted and accounts for approximately 50% of the caseload. Cocaine, in either the powder or base (crack) form, is next at about 25-30%. Pharmaceuticals and other drugs such as LSD and methamphetamine make up the rest.

## Trafficking and Seizures

- During 2001, Federal authorities seized 7.3 kilograms of marijuana in West Virginia.<sup>38</sup>

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, West Virginia, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	1.3
Heroin	0
Methamphetamine	0.2
Marijuana	7.3

- In 2001, there were 36,135 marijuana plants eradicated and seized in West Virginia under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>39</sup>

Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, West Virginia, 2001

Outdoor Operations		Indoor Operations		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
564	35,287	30	848	36,135

- During 2001, there were 13 methamphetamine labs seized in West Virginia.<sup>40</sup>

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, West Virginia, 1996-2001

Year	Meth Lab Seizures
1996	0
1997	0
1998	1
1999	5
2000	2
2001	13

- Clandestine methamphetamine laboratory activity in West Virginia has increased in the past several years. Methamphetamine manufacturing used to be focused in the

Panhandle region of the state, but has since expanded to include other areas of northern West Virginia as well as some southeastern sites. Methamphetamine distributors in West Virginia often share Mexican sources of supply with distributors in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley region.<sup>41</sup>

- 74.3% of drugs and drug equipment seized by the West Virginia State Police during 2000 involved marijuana, 8.1% involved crack cocaine, 3.4% involved cocaine, and 4.2% involved other narcotics such as codeine, hydrocodone, methadone, Demerol, Dilaudid, and OxyContin.<sup>42</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Court<sup>43</sup>  
As of January 2003, there were 2 drug courts in West Virginia in operation or being planned. One drug court had been operating for over 2 years and another was being planned.
- During FY 2001, 56.2% of Federally sentenced defendants in West Virginia had committed drug offenses. Approximately 45.7% of these drug offenses involved crack cocaine.<sup>44</sup>

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, West Virginia, FY 2001

Offense Type Involved	Number	Percentage of Total
Powder cocaine	35	11.5%
Crack cocaine	139	45.7
Heroin	18	5.9
Methamphetamine	67	22.0
Marijuana	18	5.9
Other	27	8.9

### **Corrections**

- Alcohol and Drug Education (Aladrue)<sup>45</sup>  
The Aladrue program, which began as a basic substance abuse education program in 1987, has evolved into a comprehensive continuum of programs and services serving the corrections system from intake to parole and release into the community. Project Aladrue encompasses drug education, counseling, therapy groups, AA and NA groups, residential treatment, therapeutic communities, community outreach, drug testing, controlled dangerous substance canine units, resource acquisition, program planning and development and staff training.
- During FY 2001-2002 in West Virginia, 11,545 inmates were subjected to drug tests with only 1% testing positive for drug use.<sup>46</sup>



#### Department of Corrections Drug Test Results by Facility, West Virginia, FY 2001-2002

<b>Institution</b>	<b># of Samples Tested</b>	<b># of Positive Samples</b>	<b>% of Positive Samples</b>
Anthony correctional center	693	10	1%
Beckley correctional center	683	1	0
Charleston work/study release	670	17	3
Denmar correctional center	848	6	1
Huntington work/study release	648	7	0
Huttonsville correctional center	1,894	9	1
Mount olive correctional complex	2,759	20	1
Northern correctional center	830	15	2
Ohio county correctional center	96	3	3
Pruntytown correctional center	1,466	19	1
St. Mary's correctional center	958	4	0
Total	11,545	111	1%

- As of June 30, 2002, there were 272 inmates incarcerated for drug-related crimes.<sup>47</sup>

#### Inmates Incarcerated for Drug-Related Crimes, West Virginia, June 30, 2002

<b>Drug Offenses</b>	<b># of Inmates</b>	<b>% of Inmates</b>
Create/Delivery/Possession with intent to counterfeit	7	0
Manufacturing/Delivery/Possession with intent schedule 5	5	0
Manufacturing/Delivery/Possession with intent schedule 1,2,3	206	6
Manufacturing/Delivery/Possession with intent schedule 4	34	1
Obtaining drugs through misrepresentation	16	0
Sale/Manufacturing of drug paraphernalia	4	0
Total	272	8

- On June 30, 2002 there were 4,488 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in West Virginia. This is an 8.7% increase over the number of prisoners incarcerated as of June 30, 2001 (4,130).<sup>48</sup>
- At the end of 2001, there were 6,176 adults on probation in West Virginia.<sup>49</sup>
- During 2001, the number of adults on parole in West Virginia decreased 15.6%. At the beginning of the year (January 1), there were 1,112 adults on parole, and by the end of the year (December 31), this number had increased to 939.<sup>50</sup>

#### Treatment

- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program (RSAT)<sup>51</sup>  
This program assists in the development and implementation of residential substance abuse treatment programs within West Virginia and local correctional and detention facilities. The goal is to reduce recidivism by implementing these programs that provide individual and group treatment activities for offenders.

## Sources

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- <sup>2</sup> West Virginia Governor's Web site: <http://www.state.wv.us/governor/>
- <sup>3</sup> West Virginia Attorney General's Web site: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvag/>
- <sup>4</sup> West Virginia Secretary of State's Web site: <http://www.wvsos.com>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Senate Web site, West Virginia Senators:  
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- <sup>18</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, West Virginia State Fact Sheet:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/westvirginia.html>
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>20</sup> West Virginia Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center, *2000-2001 Narcotics Arrest Survey*, May 2002: <http://www.wvdcjs.com/publications/nas00-01.pdf>
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